

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 ACDA-05 /085 W

----- 123254

O R 041240Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6893

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5332

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

1. WITH MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER OSMAN STILL IN MADRID AS
OF MORNING NOVEMBER 4 PRINCIPAL GOM MEDIA EMPHASIS HAS
BEEN ON DEFECTION SAHARAN LEADER TO GOM SIDE. SAHARAN ASSEMBLY
PRESIDENT JOUMANI DECLARED FORMAL ALLEGIANCE BEFORE KING IN
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WIDELY PLAYED CEREMONY IN AGADIR EVENING NOVEMBER 3. MININFO

BENHIMA GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE LATE SAME EVENING IN WHICH HE PRESENTED WHAT APPEARED TO BE MAIN THEMES OF PRESENT GOM STRATEGY. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

A. DEFECTION OF SAHARA LEADER: BENHIMA RECALLED DEFECTION EARLIER THIS YEAR OF PUNS LEADER OULD ER RASHID. HE SAID THAT DEFECTION OF JOUMANI REPRESENTED "LAST WORD" OF SAHARA PEOPLE SPOKEN THROUGH THE MOUTH OF MAN MOST AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THEM.

B. UNITED NATIONS ROLE. MININFO SAID THAT MOROCCO HAS FOLLOWED SC ACTION BUT NEED NOT CONSIDER ITSELF "SATISFIED" WITH ANY POSITIONS TAKEN IN UN CONTEXT BECAUSE ISSUE BASICALLY MOROCCO'S CAUSE. HE ADDED THAT PEACEFUL MARCH RESTS ON THREE PILLARS: DIALOGUE WITH MADRID; DIALOGUE AT UN; AND FREE CONSENT FOR UNIFICATION (WITH MOROCCO) AT EL-AYOUN. HE REAFFIRMED CONTINUITY MOROCCAN POLICY IN THAT DATE FOR RDJCY MARCH CONTINUES TO BE BETWEEN 4 AND 6 NOVEMBER. BENHIMA SAID IF SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM RETURNS TO MOROCCO HE WILL NOW FIND CHANGED SITUATION.

C. DISCUSSIONS IN MADRID. AS FOR OSMAN TRIP BENHIMA DESCRIBED IT AS "CLOSE" CONTACT WITH NEW SPANISH CHIEF DESIGNED EXPOSE "DIFFERENT" MOROCCAN INTENTIONS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF POLICY BASED ON PEACEFUL MARCH, SCHEDULE OF WHICH CONTINUES TO BE MAINTAINED. HE SAID IF DIALOGUE WITH SPAIN ARRIVES AT ITS OBJECTIVE THERE WILL BE NO REASON TO STOP THE MARCH BUT IF SPAIN, "WITH GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR GOM/GOS RELATIONS" DOES NOT GIVE HOPED FOR RESPONSE TO THIS NEW CONTACT THE MARCH WILL CONTINUE BECAUSE IT WILL BE CLEAR THAT SPAIN DOES NOT WISH TO TALK TO MOROCCO. MARCH WILL THEN CONTINUE ACCORDING TO PLAN.

D. MISCELLANEOUS. BENHIMA ALSO SAID THAT JOUMANI DEFECTION DOES NOT CHANGE ACCORDANCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION BENHIMA SAID MOROCCO APPRECIATES SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM ARAB WORLD WHICH IS AT "EXPECTED LEVEL OF SOLIDARITY."

2. FOLLOWING PREMATURE NOVEMBER 3 MAP ANNOUNCEMENT OF
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WALDHEIM ARRIVAL, THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION SECRETARY GENERAL'S ROLE, ACTIVITIES OR WHEREABOUTS IN GOM MEDIA. WALDHEIM ASSISTANT LEWIN'S VISIT (USUN 5575) NOT MENTIONED EITHER.

3. NOVEMBER 4 SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN CARRIES DENIAL THAT "PEACEFUL MARCHERS" STONED ALGERIAN CONSULATE IN OUJDA OCTOBER 26; MAINTAINING DEMONSTRATIONS HAD BEEN PEACEFUL.

4. WE NOTE FBIS REPORTS OF BROADCASTS EMANATING FROM MADRID AND ALGIERS ALLEGING CLASHES BETWEEN MOROCCAN AND OTHER FORCES INSIDE SAHARA. WE CANNOT CONFIRM SUCH REPORTS.

5. COMMENT: BENHIMA'S REMARKS SEEM DESIGNED AS A LATE WARNING TO SPAIN THAT IT MUST NEGOTIATE BILATERALLY OR FULL-SCALE MARCH WILL GO FORWARD. AT SAME TIME, GOM CONTINUES TO AVOID ATTRIBUTING IMPORTANCE TO UN ROLE. MEANWHILE, IT SEEMS ALSO TO BE ATTEMPTING PROTECT ITS FLANK BY MAKING SOOTHING GESTURES TO ALGERIA. GOM WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF SPECIFIC TIMING FOR START OF MARCH SOON, SINCE WE NOW INTO KING'S PROMISED TIMEFRAME AND FULL NUMBER OF MARCHERS SAID TO BE GATHERED NEAR BORDER. OSMAN'S WHEREABOUTS AT THIS WRITING UNCLEAR FROM LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE, BUT HIS MISSION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED AS ELEVENTH-HOUR ATTEMPT TO ELICIT SPANISH CONCESSIONS.
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